

NORTHERN FRONT RANGE FIRE RESTRICTION AND FIRE CLOSURE CRITERIA

The following criteria are guidelines to be used for determining the need for fire restrictions and/or fire closures. These criteria are based on a number of calculated, field sampled, and quantifiable variables. Local/political parameters may need to be considered in determining the need for fire restrictions or closures.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Select a weather station(s) that represent the geographic area of concern.
- 2) Obtain the required criteria information from the following sources:
 - Weather Trends: National weather service fire weather forecasts.
 - ERC: National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS). *Use the "G" fuel model.*
 - 1000 Hour Fuel Moistures: Calculated from NFDRS, Field sampled results.
 - Live Fuel Moisture: Calculated from NFDRS, Field sampled results. *Old needles until bud break, then use new needles.*
 - FTC Preparedness Level: Afternoon fire danger broadcast.
 - R2 Preparedness level: Regional Situation Report.
 - National Preparedness level: National Situation Report.

This information can be obtained from the Fort Collins Interagency Wildfire Dispatch Center: Phone: (970) 498-1348; WEBSITE: <http://www.fs.fed.us/arnf/fire/fire.html>

- 3) Use the chart below to determine critical break points for each of the identified criteria, determine the number of criteria that have reached or exceeded the critical break point. Be sure to use the RESTRICTION parameters. *Do not count the weather parameter, use it as a qualifier to determine if the short and long term trend will be for improving, stable or deteriorating conditions.*
- 4) Count the number of elements that meet or exceed the critical break points and use the RESTRICTION CATEGORY CHART to determine the need for a restriction.
- 5) Coordinate with all applicable agencies to initiate restrictions if needed.
- 6) Continue to monitor conditions to evaluate the continued need for restrictions, lifting of restrictions or increase to closure status.
- 7) Use the same format to determine the need for closures using the appropriate charts.

[illegible]

SULPHR.	RESTRIC.	5-7 DAYS	48>	<13%	<120%	III	IV	IV	MULTI-STARTS I.A. MAXED
	CLOSUR.	7-14 DAY	54>	<11%	<100%	IV	V	V	>1 LARGE FIRE R2 RESOURCES

RESTRICTION CATAGORIES (EXCLUDE WEATHER PARAMETER-USE AS QUALIFIER)

# OF CRITERIA	CATEGORY	RESTRICTIONS
0,1	GREEN	NO
2,3	YELLOW	CONSIDER
4+	RED	IMPLEMENT

CLOSURE CATAGORIES (EXCLUDE WEATHER PARAMETER-USE AS QUALIFIER)

# OF CRITERIA	CATAGORY	CLOSURES
0,1,2	GREEN	NO
3,4	YELLOW	CONSIDER
5+	RED	IMPLEMENT

DEFINITIONS:

WEATHER: The weather forecast is used to determine the short and long range predictions as they apply to potential fire occurrence and fire behavior. The forecast should be used as quantifying variable in the decision to implement fire restrictions, fire closures, or to lift restrictions once in place. This element should not be counted when using the restriction category or closure category charts.

ERC: Energy Release Component, A number related to the available energy (BTU) per unit area (Square Foot) within the flaming front at the head of a fire. This is the best indicator of fire season severity and drought conditions in the NFDRS system. It as a low response to daily variability in weather.

1000-HOUR FUEL MOISTURE: The water content of a fuel particle expressed as a percent of the oven dry weight of the fuel particle. 1000 hour fuels are 6 inches in diameter or greater. The 1000 hour fuels are used instead of 10's or 100's due to the longer response time and greater season severity indicator.

LIVE FUEL MOISTURE: Naturally occurring fuels whose moisture content is controlled by physiological processes within the living plant. The NFDRS considers only herbaceous plants and woody plant material small enough (leaves, needles, and twigs) to be consumed in the flaming front of a fire.

PREPAREDNESS LEVELS: Are used to identify the level of wildland fire activity, severity, and resource commitment. These are used at all levels (local, regional, and national). The relationship to fire restrictions is to include the element of resource availability and activity. The local Preparedness level may be low but regional and national levels may have a significant impact on availability of local resources or the number of resources committed out-of-area.

FIRE BEHAVIOR: Generically identifies the local activity in terms of number of starts, availability of Initial Attack resources and the difficulty experienced in controlling any ignitions.